



SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 3.19.09

BILL NO. SB 506

MONTANA

TO: Chairman Jeff Essmann
Senate Taxation Committee
FR: Riley Johnson, State Director NFIB/Montana
RE: SB 506 – *The Local Option Sales Tax*

DATE: March 18, 2009

Dear Committee Members:

This is to put on the committee's official record that NFIB/Montana opposes SB 506. Our organization of nearly 6,000 Montana small business owners has traditionally opposed any form of local option sales tax.

As recent as 2008, we asked our members their opinion on a local option sales tax on the Montana State Ballot. The response was 73% opposed, 20% in favor and 7% undecided. This would be, according to SB 506, a selective sales tax that is shouldered by selective small businesses. Such tax policy, we feel, is not broad based and is unfair.

I apologize for not appearing as an opponent this morning during the hearing on SB 506, but I was in the room representing another client, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company. It is my policy to not represent more than one client in any hearing.

Thank you for your understanding and time.

Please oppose SB 506.

Riley Johnson
State Director NFIB/Montana